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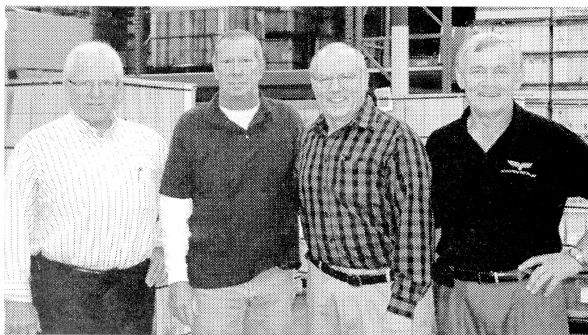
"America,
Land of the
Free, Because
of the Brave!"

OBSERVER

Kewanna Library
Box 365

Comp

VOLUME 65, Number 50 Kewanna, IN 46939 Thursday, Dec. 29th, 2011 USPS 401-840 PRICE :-: 40c Per Copy



WCS honors "Doc" Russell

Doc Russell was recently honored by the owners/officers of Winamac Coil Spring, Inc., Kewanna, for his 40 years of service. Doc joined Winamac Coil November 15, 1971 and retired November 23, 2011. He has been the plant manager for the past 20+ years. Prior to managing the plant, he worked in and managed the tool room as a designer along with his many other talents.

When the president, Joe Pesaresi, presented Doc with his retirement watch, he noted that Doc and been with the company through years of unprecedented growth. During his first year of employment, WCS experienced its first million in sales for the year; Doc's career spanned seven additions to the corporate structure; employee numbers went from 60 to over 170 at the present time; and the current year reached record sales of \$30.5 million. A final record during Doc's tenure is the recognition of being "Supplier of the Year" for the whole enterprise of John Deere. Throughout his career, Doc has been an integral partner in Winamac Coil Spring's many accomplishments.

Doc was very much a part of the impetus for the implementation of many quality and process reforms in the manufacturing

structure. He earnestly endeavored to build the team ethic so necessary in order to please and keep the many customers WCS has been so privileged to serve. He has helped establish a solid basis for those in leadership roles to continue with into the future.

Doc also managed the plant in the aftermath of a plant fire in January 2011.

Joe, Gene and the entire family congratulated and thanked Doc for the vital role he has played in the present day success of Winamac Coil Spring. Many remarks and memories were shared by all the family and it is their collective wish that Doc and Jo enjoy many years of a fulfilling retirement.

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Morning for ladies at Mahseh Center

Debbie Wingerter is planning to conduct another morning for ladies Saturday, January 28, at the Mahseh Center on Lake Bruce.

The morning will start at 10 a.m. with coffee, tea and fellowship followed by the message; God is My King in selected Psalms. Lunch will be served at 11:30. The cost for the event is \$5 and those planning to attend should pre-register by January 21 by calling the center at 574-653-3277 and leaving a message or you may email Debbie at wingerterb@aol.com.

Pictured at Doc Russell's retirement party are, left to right, Gene Huber, Sr., treasurer; Doc Russell, Dan Pesaresi, Sr., chairman of the board; and Joseph Pesaresi, president of Winamac Coil Spring.

+++

Kewanna-Union Township Public Library
Charles Rude, Interim Director
P.O. Box 365, Kewanna, IN 46939
Ph: (574) 653-2011 / Fax (574) 653-2130

Welcome to the Kewanna-Union Township Public Library. The new addition is open! Please come in and check out some new books, movies, or just ride the elevator. The library will be working on the Carnegie section of the building in 2012. Come by and watch the progress.

I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of our growth over the last year. I also want to invite you to join in our future growth. The library has big plans for the future. Don't miss out!

Upcoming events at the Kewanna library include:
Dec. 21 - closed
Jan. 14 - Game day beginning at noon
Jan. 17 - Friends meeting at 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 - Story time at 2 p.m.
Jan. 30 - Board meeting at 6 p.m.

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The News In Brief

Town clerk-treasurer Jenny Kay is looking for old black and white pictures of Kewanna scenes to place in the town hall. If you have any you would like to share, take them to her at the town hall, 308 S. Logan Street.

The Kewanna town council will meet in special session at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 29, at the town hall to conduct year-end business.

The Indiana Tree Project is seeking \$10 donations (or more) toward planting one million hardwood trees and adding 1,000 acres of new woodlands by Indiana's bicentennial in 2016.

The Caston Carmel varsity basketball team went 3-0 at the Community State Bank shoot out last week to give it a 7-2 record for the season. Caston's next five games are against teams with losing records. The Comets will host West Central January 6.

Eastern Pulaski Elementary School has been included on the list of 2010-2011 Four Star Schools. To be considered a Four Star School, a school's state test percentages must fall into the top 25th percentile when compared to schools statewide. A school must also have made adequate yearly progress.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has approved an agreement that would increase electricity bills for NIPSCO customers by 4.5 percent. NIPSCO estimates that residential customers will see bills increase about \$3.33 a month.

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Kewanna-Union Township Public Library Hours
Mon, Tues, Wed. and Fri.
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays

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Last Issue

Along with the letters to the editor published this week, we have also received many cards, notes, letters and verbal comments regarding our retirement and the closing of The Observer. All carry pretty much the same theme - sad because there will no longer be a weekly newspaper, but happy that we will be able to relax a little without deadlines to meet.

As I stated when we announced our retirement, we feel bad that the town is losing its ability to publish its local activities and there will be another empty building on Main Street. But, we are really looking forward to moving on to other endeavors while we still have our health. It will be nice to get up in the morning with a whole day ahead of us that doesn't involve "going to work!"

Unless someone steps up to the plate in the next couple of weeks, this issue of The Observer will be the last. At this point in time, almost any offer will be considered!

Once again we would like to thank everyone for their support over the years and the kind words and good wishes expressed at our retirement.

KJC

+++

Caston wrestling

Graham Redwek placed first in the 152-pound free class in the John McKee Invitational at Rochester last Friday with three pins.

Other Comet wrestlers placing in the top eight were:

113 - Derek Berkshire, 6th, with two pins
126 - Braden Moss, 7th, with one pin
132 - Kyle Harvey, 8th, with one pin
160 - Taylor Grounds, 8th, with two pins
195 - Derek Klimes, 8th

+++

Kewanna Community FOOD PANTRY
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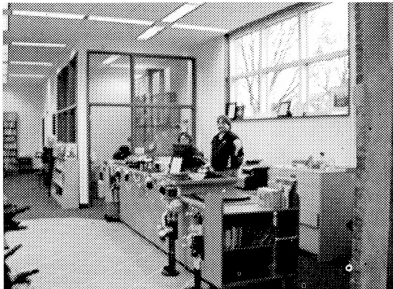
Library Addition Now Open



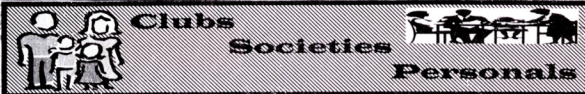
The new addition to the Kewanna-Union Township Public Library is complete and staff members have moved shelving into the children's area on the

second floor. A grant has also been secured to restore the Carnegie historical value of the old part of the library. Work will include restoring the pillars, the

stage in the basement, tuck pointing the outside and refurbishing of the original windows.



Charlie Rude, interim librarian, is shown here at the circulation desk in the new addition.



Soup suppers to start in January

Community members are already asking how they can volunteer for the winter Wednesday night soup suppers at the Kewanna United Methodist Church.

Soup suppers start Wednesday, January 4, and continue each Wednesday night until March 14. Suppers are served in the church annex from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Home deliveries are made to elderly and shut-ins.

Volunteers are needed in four areas. These areas and their contact persons include: Soup making - Sheri Cook; Delivery - Bev Ton; Kitchen help - Barb Clyde; Prayer Coordinators - Bev Kresner and Dana Field. Donations are always welcome. We also welcome names of those in Kewanna who would benefit from a good, hot bowl of soup on Wednesday evening. Everyone is welcome to eat, to help, to enjoy!

Bev Ton

To Reserve The Fire Dept. Community Room
Call Bev Baldwin at 574-653-2622 evenings



ELI RICHARD EVERS

Matthew and Anastasia Evers of Logansport are the parents of a son. He was born Dec. 20, 2011, at Logansport Memorial Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs 2 oz, was 20 inches long and has been named Eli Richard.

His maternal grandparents are Joe and Nicole Strasser. His paternal grandparents are Lisa Evers and the late Richard Evers. His maternal great-grandparents are Eddy and Susan Strasser, Tina Wiese and Arthur and Jeanette Newell. The paternal great-grandparents are Dan and Alpha Cissna and Leonard and Nancy Evers.

Indiana State Fairgrounds Upcoming Events

Indiana On the Fly - Fly Fishing & Wing Shooting Show: Jan. 7 in the Ag/Hort Building. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$10; children 10 and younger free; Boy Scouts and

Girl Scouts in uniform admitted free. For more info: www.indianaflyfishingshow.com
World's Greatest Hobby Show on Tour: Jan. 7 - 8 in the Marsh Blue Ribbon Pavilion. Hours: Sat.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$10 (good for both days); children 16 and younger free. For more info: www.wghshow.com

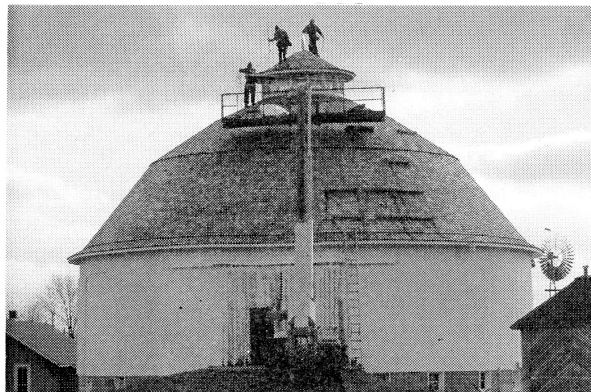
44th Annual Central Indiana RV Show: Jan. 7 - 15 in the West Pavilion. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 1 to 9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$7; Senior Citizens (60+) \$6; children 16 and younger free with adult admission. For more info: Mark Bowersox (317) 247-6258 or

www.centralindianarvshow.net
Midwest Reptile Show: Jan. 8 in the Southwest Pavilion. Hours: Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$8; children 8 and younger free. For more info: Brian Hahn (317) 899-1899 or

www.midwestreptile.com

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Kewanna Town Hall
(Water & Sewage Payments)
308 S. Logan St., Kewanna
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays
or by appointment
(The Town of Kewanna is an Equal Opportunity Employer)



The Round Barn Museum at the Fulton County Historical Society grounds recently received a new cedar roof. Millwood Roofing from Milford, working

with Michiana Contractors of Plymouth, completed the work as part of the Community Focus grant from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs.

Work is still being completed around the cupola, doors and other items.

"Happy Anniversary" 1/2/2010 - 1/2/2012



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LOCALS

Jerry and Kay Brown had a couple of callers Monday, Dec. 19. Stopping by for a visit were Julian and Teresa Hinshaw of Monrovia.

Julie Brown had a fun time Wednesday, Dec. 21. She enjoyed delivering Christmas goodies and gifts and visiting with her "munchkins." Camile Zimbleman, Addison, Parker and Marshall of Fulton.

Kay and Jerry Brown were in Mishawaka one day last week. They did some Christmas shopping and dined at TJI Friday's restaurant.

Pauline Brown and Julie had company Thursday evening, Dec. 22. Coming over for a visit and to deliver Christmas goodies and gifts were Wendy Sutton, Luke and Tanner.

Jon and Barb Gast were busy Friday, Dec. 23. Early in the day they were visited by Lois and Art Morrill of Argos. In the evening, their daughter, Angela Gast,

returned home safe- and- sound. Angela had been assigned to a mission in Uganda for most of the past year.

Permits required for soliciting door-to-door

Kewanna residents are reminded that permits are required for selling/soliciting door-to-door in Kewanna. The permits cost \$50 per person and may be obtained at the Kewanna town hall.

Residents should make sure that persons stopping at their homes to sell a product or service have obtained a permit.

Permits do not apply to schools, churches or scouting groups, but they are asked to notify the town clerk-treasurer when planning to go door-to-door in Kewanna selling a product.

Attend Church Sunday



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Hospital Notes

WOODLAWN HOSPITAL

December 19
Admissions - Charles Hileman, Warsaw; Delbert Young and Wilettia Wilson, Rochester
Dismissals - Juanna Ulrich and daughter, Kewanna; Jennifer Ringle, Rochester
December 20
Admissions - Bessie Eastwood, Rochester
Births - Kenneth and Brandy Swanson, Montone, a daughter
December 21
Births - Alyson Heinzman, Rochester, a son; Andrew and Amanda Floyd, Rochester, a daughter
Dismissals - Dorothy Trantham, Rochester
December 23
Dismissals - Rebecca Heinzman and son and Amanda Floyd and daughter, Rochester; Charles Hileman, Warsaw; Brandy Swanson and daughter, Montone
+++

DEATHS.....

DELBERT V. YOUNG

A celebration of life was held at 11 a.m. Friday, December 23, 2011, at Good Family Funeral Home, Rochester, for Delbert V. Young, 90, Rochester. Pastor Bob Metzger officiated and burial was in the Moon Cemetery, northeast of Kewanna. Mr. Young passed away at 11:50 p.m. Monday, December 19, at Woodlawn Hospital.

Born July 21, 1921, near Leiters Ford, he was the son of Jesse and Bessie Shidaker Young. A farmer, he also worked for the local International Harvester dealer. He enjoyed animals, history and the outdoors.

Survivors include a sister, Anajeane Peterson, Kewanna; a niece, Vivian Peterson, Kewanna; three nephews, John Paul Overmyer and his wife Shawn of Rochester, Dwight Peterson and his wife Venita of Winamac, and Don Peterson and his wife Jovy of Kewanna; special friends, Ann and Bea Wentzel of Kewanna, his loving caretakers

and their canine companions, Elle and Romeo. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, infant Mary Young and Doris Overmyer; four brothers, his twin Elbert as well as Elmer, Marion and Lowell Young; and his canine companion, Whiskers.
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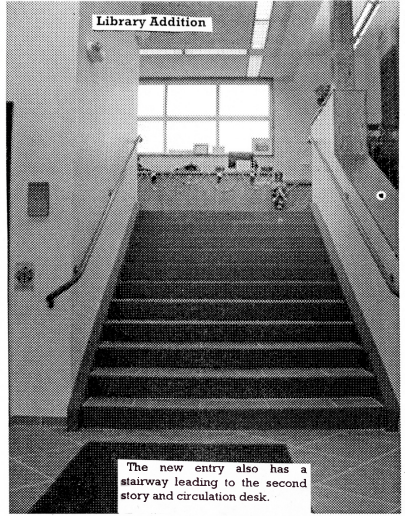
COOKING IDEAS

(NAPS)—Making it easier to bake with whole grains are Ultragrain® All-Purpose Flour with Whole Grain and Ultragrain® 100% White Whole Wheat Flour. They let you swap white flour for whole grain without sacri-



ficing flavor, texture or color. You can learn more and get great recipes online at www.ultragrain.com. Share your Ultragrain recipes at www.facebook.com/ultragrain.

Library Addition



The new entry also has a stairway leading to the second story and circulation desk.

In Loving Memory Of:
Ginger Good 12/26/89
Delbert R. Good 1/2/95
Sadly Missed By
Their Families

Library Addition



This is a view of the front entry foyer that holds the elevator to the basement and the second story.

FREE
WEEKLY



Come join us!

At the Kewanna United Methodist Church Annex on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 6:00 PM for a great family time of great soup and the fellowship of friends and neighbors.

This is a continuation of a successful program for residents of the greater Kewanna Area. If you give it a try, we're sure you'll want to make it a regular part of your winter activities.

Starts January 4th and will run through March 14th.
Hope to see you there!



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Looking Back.....

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 4, 1952
Clem L. Hickie, 79, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, passed away December 30. Mr. Hickie was a former resident of Kewanna and for the past 28 years had been living in Benton Harbor. The deceased was born in 1872 in Ohio to George and Mary Hinton Hickie, the eldest of eight children. Survivors include two sons, Elmer and George, of Kewanna.

Autos driven by Elmer Harper, Rt. 3, Kewanna, and Bert Leroy Miller, Grass Creek, collided at 6 a.m. Tuesday at the intersection of State Road 17 and the Fitchers Lake road. Both vehicles were total losses. Harper received cuts on his face.

Aubrey Zellers, former owner of the Coffee Shop, is the new janitor for Kewanna-Union Township Schools. This position has changed hands quite frequently since Ab Talbot announced his resignation in November. Herbert "Happy" Hamman was the first to fill the job, but resigned after a week. Another party tried the job and was there for even a shorter time. They all resigned, including Talbot, because the work load is too much for one man.

Devane "Babe" Feltis, retiring Fulton county treasurer, has been appointed chief deputy sheriff by Sheriff Lawrence Norris. The appointment was effective January 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Murray, Kewanna, announce the engagement of their daughter, Norma, to Pat Sabitini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Sabitini, Logansport. Miss Murray graduated from Grass Creek High School and Indiana University. She is employed as

society editor of the Logansport Pharos-Tribune. Her fiancé graduated from Logansport High School and attended Indiana University and St. Joseph College. He served with the Navy during World War II and is also employed with the Pharos-Tribune.

Sgt. Jim Zellers broke a bone in his foot when he slipped on the ice Friday night, December 28. In spite of the injury, he returned to his base at Las Vegas, Nevada, New Year's Day.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

January 3, 1937
Helen Louise Shadle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shadle, became the bride of Marlin Eugene Myers Saturday afternoon in the Kewanna Methodist Church. Rev. George Wright performed the 4 p.m. ceremony. The bride is a graduate of Kewanna High School, attended Arthur Jordan Conservatory in Indianapolis, and is a graduate of Indiana University. Mr. Myers is a graduate of Buchanan High School in Michigan and is employed by Modine in LaPorte.

Thelma Powell of Rochester and Richard Warfield of here were united in marriage Friday evening, December 28, at the Rochester EUB Trinity parsonage with Rev. Wilmet officiating. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Warfield, Kewanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Mosher announce the engagement of their daughter, Pauline Elaine, to Richard M. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Brown. Miss Mosher is a graduate of Kewanna High School and the International Business College, Fort Wayne. Mr. Brown is also a graduate of Kewanna High School, after which he served

two years in the U.S. Army. He is now employed with the State Highway department.

Ethel Faye Rans, 62, mother of 14 children, passed away at 1 p.m. Monday in Woodlawn Hospital after a lingering illness. Funeral services were held Thursday at the First Baptist Church with Rev. Robert Belt officiating. Survivors include eight sons, Harold, Hubert, Raymond, Delbert Roy Jr., Joe, Paul, Larry and Lowell; and five daughters, Ethel Stipp, Helen Worl, Lorene Wood, Lois Jean Bell and Virginia Agnew. One son, Billy Richard, preceded in death.

Mrs. Ida Elston, widow of Clyde Elston, former local druggist, died December 27 at Carmel Hospital in Winamac. In failing health for several years, her condition had been serious for the past few weeks. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Harriet Stoudt of here and Mrs. Ruth Overmyer of Logansport and seven grandchildren.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

January 4, 1962
Bradley Roe Good was the first baby born in Fulton County in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and Mr. Brown's 82nd birthday as Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Brown.

Richard Evers, seven-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Evers was taken to Woodlawn Hospital Saturday morning suffering from pneumonia.

Drawings for the 1962 county basketball tournament will be held January 8 in the office of the county superintendent. Six schools will be participating - Akron, Aubeenaubee, Kewanna, Richland Center, Talma and North Caston.

Mrs. Grace Button, Mrs. Harold Sommers and Charles Riddle of Fulton County attended the three-day Farm Bureau Institute last week at Purdue University.

Nine Kewanna Boy Scouts along with Kenneth Cook, Raymond Weller and Dick Baldwin, enjoyed a sledding party last Sunday.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

January 5, 1967
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Good have purchased The Observer newspaper and print shop.

Pvt. Bruce Baker left Sunday night for Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland after spending Christmas and New Year's at home. He completed his basic training in December at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and will continue his training at Aberdeen.

Naomi Mills, Becky Anderson, Carl Evans and Rev. Leroy Wise of Kewanna; Mr. Bernice Balint, South Bend, William Wise, New Paris, Rev. and Mrs. Norris King of Letters Ford and Mrs. George Hostetter of Royal Center left Monday on a mission trip to Haiti.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hendrickson, Kewanna, are the parents of a daughter born at Woodlawn Hospital.

Mrs. Cora Hendrickson, 82, Kewanna, is a patient at Pulaski Memorial Hospital where she is being treated for injuries sustained in a car-truck collision Thursday on State Road 231 near Spencer. She was a passenger in a car driven by her husband, Frank. Their car struck the rear of a State Highway department dump truck which had stopped to allow another vehicle to cross the highway.

The Rose Bowl parade Monday

in Pasadena, California, was of special interest to Hoosiers as the Purdue football team represented the Big 10, playing for the first time in that big event. Special interest locally was two members of the Purdue marching band - James Ley and Ronnie Miller. Both are graduates of Kewanna High School. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ley and Ronnie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

January 7, 1982
The Union Township Advisory Board elected officers when it met Tuesday evening, January 5. Kent Cook was re-elected president and John Agnew, Jr. was re-elected secretary for 1982.

Everett Smith and Harris Lease were re-elected president and vice president, respectively, of the three-man Fulton County Board of County Commissioners Monday night when the group met for its first meeting of the new year.

Room rates at Woodlawn Hospital increased by 14.2 percent Friday, bringing the cost of a room to \$147 per day.

Kevin Sommers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sommers, Kewanna, has been named to the Dean's List at Indiana University, Bloomington, for the fall semester. He is a sophomore majoring in business and pre-law and plans to enter law school upon graduation.

Rolland "Dick" Roe, Jr.

Con't. To Page Five

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"Looking Back"

Con't. From Page Four

announced his candidacy Monday for the Democratic nomination for Fulton County sheriff in the May primary.

Private services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Foster and Good Funeral Home, Rochester, for Clifford E. Felder, 87, Kewanna. He was married to the former Ruby Troutman, who survives. He was co-owner of the Felder Brothers Auto Agencies in Lowell and Rensselaer. Survivors also include two daughters, Lois Wilson of Kewanna and Jean Babcock, Rensselaer.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

January 2, 1991

Baxter's Drugs in Rochester is now Webb's Family Pharmacy. Although Harry Webb purchased the pharmacy in April of 1990 from Ernie and Parke Baxter, the named change was not effective until New Year's Day. Webb has lived and worked in Rochester since 1985.

Services were held Monday in Fisher Funeral Chapel, Logansport, for Virgil S. Personett, 89, of Mishawaka. A member of the Burnettsville Baptist Church, he was a retired retail store manager, after 45 years in the profession. Among his survivors is one son, Gene Personett of Versailles, formerly of Kewanna.

The children and grandchildren of Lula Fields, Grass Creek, will host a reception in honor of her 80th birthday Sunday, January 5, at the Grass Creek United Methodist Church.

Marnie Van Meter, Rt. 2, Kewanna, has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. January 14-19. Marnie is the daughter of Martin and Sherry Van Meter and a junior at Caston.

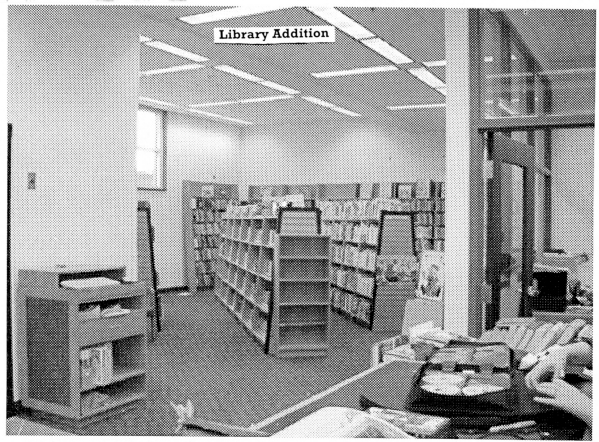
Calvin Kistler, 66, Ellettsville, died Wednesday at his residence. He was a 1943 graduate of Grass Creek High School, a 1949 graduate of Indiana Central and a 1954

graduate of Indiana University. He retired in 1981 as guidance counselor at Western High School in Howard County. He had previously taught and coached at Royal Center and at Eastern High School in Howard County. Survivors include two brothers, Manford, of Auburndale, Florida, and Delbert, Kokomo; and two sisters, Freida Colby, Danville, Illinois, and Corabelle Crippen, Rochester.

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Pulaski Memorial Hospital Community Calendar

Guest Speakers to Community
Pulaski Memorial Hospital has launched its new speaker's bureau, complete with Power Point presentations. This is a free service to any civic, club, school or church organization. Available topics include: New addition **Radiology** contact Jim Pungle at 574-946-2138; **Emergency** contact Deb McDonald at 574-946-2141; **Home Health** contact Amy Bean at 574-946-2145; **Hospice** contact Karen Utes at 574-946-2140; **Oncology** contact Joan Lauder at 574-946-2180; **Maternity** contact Sharon Berry at 574-946-2113; **Rehab Services** contact Will Fox at 574-946-2156; and the **Winamac Specialists' Clinic** contact



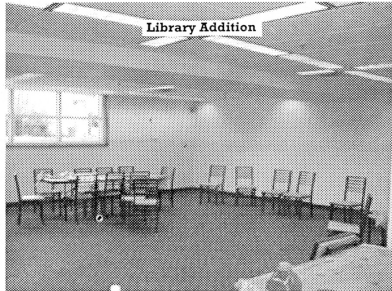
Library Addition

Carol Sparks at 574-946-2106. **Volunteer Openings**
The Pulaski Memorial Auxiliary has openings for both men and women. Areas of service include Reception Desk, Gift Shop, Hostess Program and Patient Services. For more information call 574-946-2100.

The Pulaski Memorial Hospice is also in need of men and women volunteers. For information about this opportunity call 574-

946-2140 and ask for Karen Utes.

+++



Library Addition

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"Slices of Life"

By: Jill Pertler



The silence of friendship

We never were afraid of the silences. Not that there were many. There was more laughter than silence. Still is. I can tell you that for sure. Truth is, when you can weather the silences and not even be aware of them it means a lot.

She's the one who noticed. We'd be driving to a meeting - or maybe lunch - without either of us saying a word. The air wasn't heavy. Just quiet. And it was okay. She mentioned we didn't need to fill the air between us to stay friends.

I appreciated her noticing. We met when we were young things - wet behind the ears and full of passion for many areas. Spring chickens I suppose would be the cliché of choice. We both had many pathways open to our future and had yet to decide which exactly we'd choose.

Our careers brought us together, but we shared ideas and ideals as well. We walked similar paths in high school. We both held pom poms and the French horn. How's that for coincidence? It wasn't surprising we became fast friends who shared lunch, laughter and the occasional secret.

And then life happened. Like life has a habit of doing.

When it came to the big decisions, she went one way; I went another. Neither took the correct route, necessarily, just

the one right for us. What it meant, in the long run, is we'd no longer share day-to-day work routines, office jokes or lunch. I left my job (our workplace) and moved far away to raise a family. She stayed.

I wondered what would happen to our friendship and thought perhaps it (or we) wouldn't stand the test of time. We'd parted paths and our contact was limited. I wasn't sure how much of this new kind of silence our relationship would take. Sometimes friends can come and go like a change of seasons.

I got involved in my new life. I think it would have been wrong if I hadn't. There was a time or two when we got together and she was caught up with work and I was caught up with diapers. I wished we could talk more, but there wasn't as much to say as in the past.

I'm not sure she noticed; I did. We never talked about it - the silence that felt like silence - because we'd never experienced it in our friendship before. Besides, our lives were full, each in a different way. A busy life has a way of helping you not pay attention to the silences.

The years marched on. We both lost our moms and, in the weird, funny way that life unfolds, our losses brought us closer again. We shared disappointments and triumphs. As my kids grew, my attention turned to a new career. She

experienced the joy of grandchildren. We both held pom poms in high school. Now, after years together and apart, I think we find ourselves being cheerleaders again. We give a yay, rah rah! for good friends who don't need to say anything at all to know we're rooting for each other, like always.

To Whom it May Concern

Dear National Organization Representing Senior Citizens, Thank you for sending me a temporary membership card along with an invitation to join your club. Unfortunately I won't be able to use either for some time. As much as I appreciate your (multiple) attempts to correspond with me, I'm afraid you have me confused with someone else.

Although I hope to enroll some day, I do not possess the prerequisites for membership in your organization. It's a numbers thing and I haven't reached the peak. I'm still climbing (the hill, that is) and I'm not quite over it yet.

Oh, sure, my knees give an occasional creak and the old get up and go doesn't always go like it used to, but I am far from achieving the numerical status needed to join your club. At least I think I am. I sometimes experience difficulties remembering things - like my age - but I am pretty sure I am decades away from a senior discount.

Of course, I do engage in the (occasional) afternoon nap. Isn't that what Saturdays were made for? I believe youngsters nap with regularity, so 40-winks does not put one anywhere except

tired. Sometimes I get tired. More often lately. Especially after my last birthday, when the flames from the candles lit up the kitchen like a torch.

I admit I am familiar with the term "Early Bird Special." Does this prove anything other than the fact that I am blessed with a healthy appetite? I think not. Eating before 5:00 p.m. says nothing about one's age, does it? I also must confess: gravity is becoming more real with each passing year, and certain parts of my body seem to be sinking downward.

I have been known to tell the same story over and over. This isn't a sign of age; more that I am interesting - or at least interested, in myself.

I also must confess: gravity is becoming more real with each passing year, and certain parts of my body seem to be sinking downward. Did I say already?

However, when I currently speak of retiring, I am referring to bedtime or perhaps the wheels on my minivan - certainly not my career. I've got plenty of time clocks to punch before I sleep.

I understand the benefits of membership in your club. The

potential for driving discounts is especially attractive. I am an exceptionally safe driver and pride myself on traveling at least five miles under the speed limit at all times. I also like to use the left lane whenever possible. It's less congested and I feel safer over there.

I also appreciate the impact of insurance discounts and restaurant coupons. I hope to have them in my funny pack someday. For now, though, I am still a youngster who regrettably is not eligible to be a part of your grand organization.

Never fear about the temporary membership card falling into the wrong hands. I will cut it up and throw it away - or I would - if I could remember where I put it. I have lost track of it. Perhaps it's under my green bananas. I'd be able to look, but it seems I've misplaced them - again.

Jill Pertler, award-winning syndicated columnist and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" is collecting fans on Facebook on her Slices of Life page. Email her at perlm@qwest.net or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Joe and Karen Good,

I wish you a long and happy retirement. Enjoy fishing and golf. Maybe you can teach Karen a few fishing tricks.

But, I will miss The Observer, a fine local paper. The article "Local News" is a great article. The item "Looking Back" for the past 60 years brings back lots of memories as I grew up when Richard Center played Kewanna in basketball as well as Les Ford, Talma, Grass Creek, Fulton and Akron and I know most people from the past 60 years!

I am sure the local people will miss you most.

From your friends and business patrons, we say many years of health and retirement.

Sincerely,
Ennet L. Hiatt
Carolyn Hiatt

+++

What will we do without The Observer?

For forty-five years, The Observer has been our constant reminder to attend meetings, church events, anniversary celebrations, library hours, and Town Council meetings. When we needed special services, The Observer provided us with names and numbers for home maintenance, carpeting, lumber yards, excavating, electrical, car repairs. The Observer has been a part of our daily activities, a reference tool, and a link to our neighbors and friends, both down the street and across the country! The Observer told us what we were going to do next week, what we did last week, and what we had done twenty, forty, even sixty years ago! The Observer kept us informed and our statuses up-to-date long before anyone had ever heard of Facebook or Twitter! Maybe we're selfish, or resistant-to-change, but starting next week we are all going to have a big, new, empty space in our weekly routines... But at least we can fill up some of that empty space with our very best wishes for a very long and happy retirement, and with our most sincere appreciation to Joe and Karen for bringing us The Observer these past forty-five years!

Thanks for everything, Joe & Karen!

Best wishes from everyone at Kewanna Metal Specialties, Inc.

Note of sincere appreciation

At our Winamac Coil Spring Christmas party, company president Joe Pesaresi noted in his speech about an article that was in the December 21, 1961, edition of The Observer where Winamac Coil Spring had purchased its second automatic coiler and then president, Walter Pesaresi, anticipated yearly sales to reach \$300,000. Current year 2011 will close with a corporate record sales year of over \$30 million. That is 100 times multiplied!

We wanted to mention this because you, Joe and Karen, have been consistent partners in many projects throughout our corporate and personal history in Kewanna. There have been great times and sad times but you have been there with us!

Joe and Terry Pesaresi, Dan and Vivian Pesaresi, Gene and Barb Huber and their family

members wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Joe and Karen Good for all their faithful efforts to be a voice not only for us, Winamac Coil Spring, but for the community and surrounding areas as well as national events. We will miss you and your dear "Observer"!

We also want to wish you a joyful and fulfilling retirement and sincerely thank you again for your ardent friendship and efforts in behalf of Winamac Coil Spring.

Along with Joe and Karen, we would like to also thank the town of Kewanna, the surrounding communities and our current 172 employees as well as those from the past. With all of you, our success would have been limited.

+++

Dear Editor,

As I was "looking Back" on life remembering you, Joe and Karen? I first remembered you as Kelly's Mom and Dad, then Joe you braved the elements and became "Coach" to us girls, remembering those days and how you made us work our family's off season the halls-up and down the stairs, running sideways, sprinting forward and backwards, teaching us picks for plays and many more, I must not have minded the rest because they didn't stick like those others (or after 30+ years have those forgotten) we other than those darn sit-ups! Karen at this point you were just Coaches wife.

About my last year of basketball I remember you becoming our neighbor. You moved your family into town and resided in what use to be the Hoover house. At this point you had to endure all those kids that come with living in town as it had to be different than living in the country.

After one basketball season I remember being at the Marlo for a team meal and several of us girls put cigarettes in our mouth (we had been on Coach to quit he eventually did, thus the name Smokey Jo). Joe the look on your face was priceless, the shake of the head and the smile was just so you!

It was after I remember you as Coach & Coaches wife that I guess I grew up enough to realize you were also owners, publishers and editors of the local newspaper.

This paper was a vital role in our little community. Keeping our town and surrounding areas in touch with what was happening with our school, and

the town locals.

I remember being sponsored by "The Observer" for the Miss Fulton County Pageant along with Sandi Prillman Westfall who was sponsored by the Marlo. Although neither one of us placed it was an experience we both well remembered.

Then I remember you helping us celebrate our marriage and being excited for us as our family grew.

Then becoming friends through services we were in. Karen and I working together for the Republican Women's group and attending meetings, her wonderful support through my days as their president. Working together on fund raisers for the group and dragging Joe and Rich out on our adventures in the cold to put up signs, of course we would plan this around dinner time so we could enjoy a meal together.

These are just a few things I remember and I'm sure there are many I have forgotten, but all in all thanks for being the, caring, loving people that you are.

Thanks for the memories of "Looking Back". As I am sitting here penning this I am tearing up, guess for the loss of all the news and stories that will go unpublished, for not being able to pop into the Observer office to say Hi or enjoy a cup of tea, but not for the wonderful people who have kept our little town in the news because you will always have a special place in my heart.

So "Thank You" from all of us for your services for the past 45 years. We wish you an absolutely amazing retirement and many happy days of golf and antiquing.

Love, Tami

Joe and Karen,

When I got the issue about the end of The Observer I knew that day would come, but it was sad. It seems that when we move away and live our lives, a lot of important things in our lives fade. One of those things is losing touch with our roots. Kewanna, you two and the Observer are part of who I am. Even though I missed many issues when I was younger, I am grateful you stuck with it and in my later years brought a touch of home back to me. Thank you!

Attached is a poem I wrote about Jim Talbott nine or ten years ago. I intended to send it to you long ago, but didn't. I still think of him; what he missed; what he didn't miss, and

Jim

I finally saw your name on The Wall
I was strong and showed little emotion
It wouldn't do for a Marine to appear weak

I think it would have been different had we been alone
But I was busily tracing your name with the supplies provided
And there were many people about

I wonder if you were trying to tell me something
Were you saying that you understood
Were you trying to tell me you willingly took your place on The Wall

And there was no need for tears

There were those who gladly let you take their place
Those who today enjoy freedom because of you and those like you
I wonder. Do they hold their manhood cheap

Are they secretly ashamed

What do they feel when the colors pass
Do they stand proud or do they secretly feel humiliated

You stand proud, Jim

My tears for you are because of your lost youth

Because I lost a good friend

Because of your family's pain and sorrow

And maybe because of those who sent you there

Those who could never rightly take your place on The Wall

sometimes wonder about it all.

Anyway, thanks for your dedication and enjoy your retirement.

Tom Mitchell

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Since the early 1880s, Kewanna has had a community newspaper (the Kewanna Herald which later became the Observer in the mid-20th century.) Much more than paper and ink, the community newspaper is the "glue" that binds and helps connect the citizens of western Fulton County, thus providing a valuable form of public service in our democratic society.

Over the years, the Observer has kept our citizenry informed of events in our community. The newspaper has brought us news of local fund raisers, Little League registration, marriages, deaths, scout projects, church bake sales, and students who made the honor roll or Dean's List. The letter to the editor column has provided a forum for public expression that has allowed citizens to make their opinion heard. The Observer has reported the news of local government and has kept voters and taxpayers informed. No other newspaper in our area has focused on our community as our local newspaper.

The Observer deserves our praise and accolades for it has earned it. Our local newspaper will be sadly missed.

Name Withheld.

+++

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Kewanna for allowing me to serve you as member of the Kewanna Town Council these last twelve years. It has been a

tremendously educational experience, and one which I feel has allowed me to grow as a person. Citizens are sometimes so busy with the activities in their own personal lives to take the time to fully appreciate the operations of the town around them. Prior to serving on the Council, I know I certainly took them for granted!

Fortunately, for all of us, Kewanna has been blessed over the years with a legion of citizens who have cared so much about their families, friends and neighbors, that they have chosen to serve their community. Whether serving on the Council, the Library Board, the Park Board, the Fire Department, on any number of service organizations, clubs and committees, or simply by helping someone when they need a hand-up: Kewanna is a community of people who care! That's something we should all be proud of.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you and our community.

Sincerely,
Jeff Firke

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Thank You . . . We want to thank the members of the Kewanna United

Methodist Church for providing dinner; Kyle Rans and the Harrison-Metzger & Rans Funeral Home staff; all the staff of the Rochester Woodlawn Hospital and Pastor Todd Wilson and Pastor Steve Tufts for the memorial service.

We also want to thank family and friends for all the visits, cards, phone calls, food and prayers that helped us through a most difficult time.

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Town & Country CHATTER...

By: Julie Brown Ph.: (574) 653-2451

Tom and Linda Garner hosted their family's Christmas gathering Saturday, Dec. 24, joining them for dinner, gift exchange and visiting were their children and their families Amanda and Don Wassermann, Zachary and Mackenzie of Valparaiso; Missy and Steve Young, Trey, Brianna, Kaylin and Stevanna of Twelve Mile; and T.J. and Ashley Garner and ?.

Ruth Cogdill began her Christmas weekend by talking with all of her children. Tim Cogdill of Macy would be celebrating the holiday with his family Monday as they all had to work Christmas Day. Jane Teeter of Bluffton, Jim Cogdill of Lebanon, Linda Ligocki of Winamac and Mike Cogdill of Eagle River, Alaska would be celebrating with their families Christmas Eve. (Mike, we finally received our first good snowfall. We still have a long way to go to match your ??? feet of snow already on the ground.)

Tom and Barb LaFollette hosted their family's Christmas get-together Saturday. Their guests for a day of good food and lots of gifts were their son and his family, Chris and Nita LaFollette, Michelle, Michael, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Thomas of LaPorte; their daughter and her family, Karina and Terry Bohac and Mick of Rochester; and their granddaughter and great-grandson, Shelby Bohac and Elijah.

Kerry and Karen Brown of Connersville arrived Saturday for a three-day visit with Kerry's parents, Jerry and Kay Brown.

Florence Hogan had some visitors Saturday. Stopping by for an entertaining visit in the afternoon was her granddaughter and her family, Wendy and Jonathan Shock, Haley and Bella.

Barb and Jon Gast and Angela hosted their family's Christmas get-together Saturday. Joining them for dinner and visiting were their children and their spouses; Don Weller and Teresa of Kathleen, Georgia, Rick and Belinda Weller of LaPorte, Randy and Steve Neidig of Bourbon and Cora Lynn and Howard Clemans; their grandchildren and their families, Chad and Deb Weller, Tyler and Cody, of Rolling Prairie, Doug and Kara Sutton, Ethan and Owen, of Goshen, Brent Waggoner of Warsaw and Shelby of Etna Green and Kim Jenkins, Brandon, Riley and Katelyn of Leiters Ford; Larry and Beverly Baldwin; Laurie Paulik and Carson; and Glenn Scott of Shipshewana.

Brian and Kandi Evers hosted their annual holiday party for family and friends Saturday evening. Among their many guests were Brian's parents, Leonard and Nancy Evers. Everyone enjoyed visiting, playing games, eating goodies and talking with Santa.

Renee Colley spent part of the Christmas weekend in Valparaiso as a guest of Dick Fedorchak.

Ruth Cogdill had a few visitors Sunday, Dec. 25. The first to arrive was her brother, David Norris. In the afternoon, her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Gordon Ligocki, and her sister, Janel Norris, stopped by for a holiday chat. It was a

wonderful weekend filled with Christmas treats, holiday wishes and family visits. Ruth and her children are in complete agreement: Karen and Joe, we will sure miss The Observer.

Nancy and Leonard Evers had a very nice time spending Christmas Day with their daughter and son-in-law, Janet and C.J. Yocum at Rochester. The celebration was very cozy and special.

Ann Zartman and Shirley had several visitors Christmas Day. Stopping by following church services were Omar and Martha Ann Clark. In the evening, the Zartmans were joined by Ann's daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Rich Green, and their son and his family, Dale Green and Wendy with Joshua and Jacob of Culver, for a soup supper.

Florence Hogan had holiday guests Sunday. Joining her for a quiet celebration of the holiday were her daughter and son-in-

law, Wendy and Dan Kelly of Lafayette; her daughter, Alice White of Winamac; and her grandchildren and their spouses, Sarah and Mike Cleary and David and Megan White of Indianapolis. Wendy remained overnight as a houseguest of Florence.

Jerry and Kay Brown hosted their family's Christmas gathering Sunday. Their guests for dinner and a lot of visiting were their sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Mick Brown and Kerry and Karen Brown; their daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Mike McKinney of Rochester; their daughter and her family, Angie and Tom Smith, Leighnee, Kaelee, Will and Aidan of Rochester; their son and his friend, Mike Brown and Lynn Hall; their grandchildren and their families, Lindsay and Adam Loehmer and Leland of Monterey, Jason and Britni Brown of Avon, Ted and Faith Brown, Chloe and Barrett, and Steve Fox and Griffin; their grandchildren, Kyle and Molly McKinney of Muncie and Jessica and Michael C. Brown of Winamac; Lynn's daughter, Amber; and Kay's mother and sister, Mary K. Williamson and Rita of Winamac.

Debbie and John Zupancic of Crown Point hosted the Colley family Christmas celebration. Among their guests were Debbie's sister-in-law, Renee Colley, and Renee's son and granddaughter, Eric Colley and Meghan of Bartlett, Illinois. Pauline and Julie Brown had a busy day Monday, Dec. 26. In the morning, Julie's "munchkin," Anna Douglass of West Lafayette, stopped by for a holiday chat. At noon, Pauline's son and his family, Jim and Deb Brown and Clayton of Fairland, arrived for an overnight holiday visit.

Those persons who will be having birthdays next week (so please remember to give them your best regards) are: Ashlyn Foster, Brad Good, Becky Herrold, Kirsten Kaufman, Sherri

Miller and Randy Neidig, Jan. 1; Lorrie Attest, Aubrey Dague, Jeannett Hewitt, Allen Rose and Joshua Stacey, Jan. 2; Jeff Brown, Tracey Cunningham, Jane Unger and Jean Urbin, Jan. 3; Claire Blair, Gavin Hickle and Madison White, Jan. 4; Josh Douglass, Kirk Good, Annie Hurley, Billie Jo Hurley, Andrew Riddle and Madeline Yocum, Jan. 5; Joshua Haimbaugh, Jan. 6; and Debbie Brown, Joyce Donathen, Pam Evers, Mick Herrold, Bud Leazenby, Ed

Mollencupp and Ryan Watson, Jan. 7.

There are three couples who will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries next week: Mr. and Mrs. Steve Neidig, Jan. 1; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kimble, Jan. 2; and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cogdill, Jan. 7.

It has been 17 1/2 years since I began writing this column. I have made a lot of friends that I will dearly miss and may call from time to time. There have been thousands of telephone calls, dozens of additions and deletions to the birthday and anniversary lists and lots of laughter and a few tears. Sorry to say, it has come time to say farewell.

+++

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